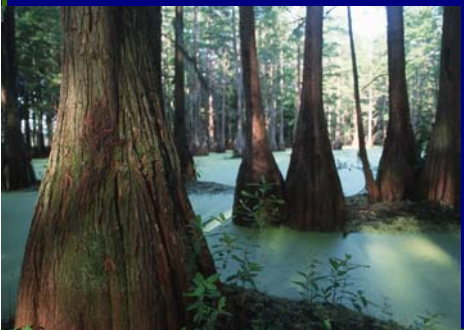




Wetlands are the link between land and water, where the flow of water, the cycling of nutrients and the energy of the sun meet to produce highly productive ecosystems.



- **What is significant about South Carolina's Four Holes Swamp?**

Four Holes Swamp is a 450,000 acre area that begins as a small swamp stream in Calhoun County and flows 62 miles through four counties before it joins the Edisto River and the Atlantic Ocean. The origin of the name "Four Holes Swamp" is steeped in mystery, much like the woods themselves. That mystery and myth of the swamp was used to full advantage by the forces of Francis Marion, the Swamp Fox, and General Nathaniel Greene during the Revolutionary War.

INTERESTING FACT: *The Francis Beidler Forest, located within Four Holes Swamp near the intersection of I-26 and I-95, contains the largest remaining virgin stand of tupelo gum and bald cypress trees in the world!*

Four Holes Swamp is different from the usual river bottom swamp. It is a swamp-stream system fed largely by springs and runoff from surrounding higher areas. No major unbroken channel occupies the floodplain, yet swamp water moves slowly and relentlessly seaward through a network of braided waterways.

- **What is the Four Holes Swamp Special Initiative WRP Project?**

It's a Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) special initiative involving six permanent, adjoining easements which will restore over 6,000 acres of wetlands. Future easements are in progress within the Four Holes Swamp. South Carolina NRCS created this project to protect major watershed systems in South Carolina that were affected by logging operations, etc. By applying conservation to a large area of floodplain, the impact is far reaching.

- **What is the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)?**

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) is a voluntary program that provides technical and financial assistance to eligible landowners to address wetland, wildlife habitat, soil, water, and related natural resource concerns on private lands.

Wonderful Wetlands!

- **What is the goal of the Four Holes WRP project?**

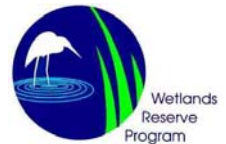
The overall goal of this initiative is to restore the natural hydrology of the land by removing blockages (such as roads and culverts) that prevent the natural flow of water through the floodplain. By returning the area back to its original hydrology, migration of fish and other aquatic species will be facilitated, and delivery of food sources downstream will resume, therefore benefiting many animal and plant species. With improved hydrology, vegetation throughout this area will be renourished and the diverse plant and animal population will once again thrive.

NRCS conservationists are also looking for ways to enhance and improve wildlife habitat in the watershed through the use of wildlife openings, shallow water areas, and creation of habitat diversity.

- **What is a WRP project?**

The purpose of South Carolina's special initiative WRP projects are to restore the connectivity between major rivers and their associated floodplains and swamps, in an effort to offer protection from further disturbance.

These areas are frequently flooded under natural conditions, and serve as nursery areas for aquatic species, as well as nutrient delivery to the river systems in the form of detritus and woody debris.



the natural hydrology of the area has been disrupted by logging operations, or other disturbances, which blocks or alters the exchange of nutrients and the migration of aquatic species.



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